

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the following reasons. Claim 1-9 have been amended. New claim 18 has been added. Claims 10-17 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-9 and 18 are pending for reconsideration.

Claim 1 has been amended to more distinctly claim the invention. The amendment to claim 1, while changing the scope of that claim, has not narrowed its scope. Claims 2-9 have been amended to be consistent with the amendment to claim 1. The amendments to claims 2-9, while changing the scope of these claims, have not narrowed their scope.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,822,507 to Uda et al. (hereafter "Uda"). Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Uda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,475,475 to Kohtani et al. (hereafter "Kohtani"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, insofar as they pertain to the claims as presently amended, for the following reasons.

As background, independent claim 1 is directed to an image forming apparatus. The apparatus includes an operating condition image producing means for producing image data indicative of operating conditions. The apparatus also includes an image forming means for forming an image on an image formation medium based on the image data processed by an image processing means from image data that is indicative of operating conditions. Additionally, the apparatus includes a means for controlling the image forming means to form an image corresponding to the image data produced by the operating condition image producing means on the image formation medium. As an example of forming on an image formation medium an image corresponding to the image data produced by the operating condition image producing means, the present application illustrates an image P1 from image data that is indicative of operating conditions, which is printed out along with the image P2, by a color printer section 2 (see Figures 8B and 3, page 23, line 16 - page 24, line 4). As an example, the image

data indicating operating conditions has corresponding images exemplified by Fig. 6A and 6B, generated by image generation section 133 (of Fig. 5).

Thus, the apparatus of the present invention includes structure for forming on an image formation medium, both an image based on image data processed by an image processing means as well as an image corresponding to the image data produced by the operating condition image producing means. The operating condition information formed on the image formation medium may aid a serviceperson in image adjustment work on the system, since information on the apparatus operating conditions can be printed (or otherwise formed on the image formation medium) along with an image based on other image data. By contrast with the present invention of claim 1, neither Uda or Kohtani suggest forming on an image formation medium an image corresponding to image data indicative of operating conditions.

Uda is directed to a scanner printer server that selectively controls a scanner and a printer. The scanner printer server 102 can transmit a print command to a printer 104 (col. 4, lines 61-63). Status information, such as an indication of a paper out or paper jam operation abnormality is transmitted from the printer 104 (col. 4, lines 63-65). Even if the status information could be considered to correspond to data indicative of operating conditions, however, Uda does not disclose that the status information is sent to the printer to be printed out. The scanner printer server 102 does not generate image data indicating operating conditions, which is then sent to the printer. Thus, Uda does not disclose or suggest forming on an image formation medium an image corresponding to image data indicative of operating conditions.

Kohtani merely discloses superimposing two or more different images one on top of another on a sheet of paper. Kohtani, however, does not disclose or suggest superimposing an image indicating the operating conditions of an apparatus on another image.

For the reasons given above, applicants submit that claim 1, and claims 2-9 depending therefrom, are patentable over the art cited in the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn.

New claim 18

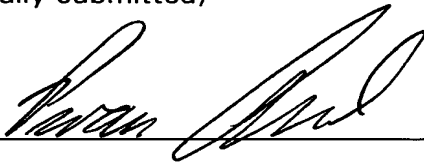
New claim 18 has been added. New claim 18 is similar to claim 1, but avoids any possible interpreting of claim elements under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 6. New claim 18 is deemed to be patentable over the art cited in the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 for at least the same reasons as claim 1, discussed above.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Marked up rewritten claims:

1. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

reading means for reading a document;

image processing means for processing image data read by the reading means;

image forming means for forming an image on an image formation medium based on the image data processed by the image processing means;

[image formation condition-producing means] operating condition image producing means for producing an image data indicative of operating conditions of at least one of the reading means, the image processing means and the image formation means[,]; and

means for controlling the image forming means to form an image corresponding to the image data produced by [from the image formation condition-producing means] the operating condition image producing means on the image formation medium.

2. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operating condition image producing [image formation condition-producing] means includes means for producing a character image data indicative of the operating conditions.

3. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operating condition image producing [image formation condition-producing] means includes means for producing a pattern code image data indicative of the operating conditions.

4. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operating condition image producing [image formation condition-producing] means includes means for producing an image data indicative of input conditions of the reading means.

5. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operating condition image producing [image formation condition-producing] means includes means for forming an image data indicative of a resolution and sampling rate of the reading means.

6. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operating condition image producing [image formation condition-producing] means includes means for forming an image data indicative of output conditions of the image forming means..

7. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operating condition image producing [image formation condition-producing] means includes means for forming an image data indicative of processing conditions of the image processing means.

8. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

synthesizing means for synthesizing an image obtained by the image processing means with the image corresponding to the image data produced by the operating condition image producing means [produced by the image formation condition-producing means], wherein

an image obtained by the synthesizing means is formed on the image formation medium by the image forming means.

9. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

designating means for designating whether or not an image obtained by the image processing means should be synthesized with the image corresponding to the image data produced by the operating condition image producing means [produced by the image formation condition-producing means], wherein

said synthesizing means synthesizes the image obtained by the image processing means with the image corresponding to the image data produced by the operating condition image producing means [produced by the image formation condition-producing means] and provides a resultant synthesized image in a case where the designating means designates synthesis, and provides only the image obtained by the image processing means in other cases.